**BATTLE THE MONSTER**

Rrrrrriingg!

Wake up, Wake up, it’s a brand new day!! Wake up, Wake up, it’s a brand new day!!

There’s the blasted alarm. Time to wake up, I guess.

I rub my eyes and squint into the bright sunlight when I hear a soft whisper, "You still have time. Just sleep". That’s when the struggle begins. Do I wake up? Do I succumb to his lulling voice?

"No. I already missed the morning exercise. I should not be late to college", I say.

“It’s alright. You always have tomorrow”, he replies and I sink back into my pillow. I close my eyes and try to fall back asleep. I battle with this monster, but in vain. Meanwhile, I hear footsteps approaching.

“Wake up, you fool. It’s late already”, I hear that dreadfully cheerful voice of my sister.

“Catching the last bell in the morning won’t work every day. You know how strict the rules are.” she continues.



At last, I wake up and get ready as fast as possible and leave for college. After fifteen minutes of the journey, I arrive at my college to see my worst fears come true. Closed gates. Damn!

Even now, I feel his impending presence over me.

“Look, I am late. And you are the culprit", I grumble at him.

“You could have just bunked and relaxed. Why did you have to run in haste?” he asked.

“Don’t mock at me all the time. Go away”, I reply furiously.

The gate is closed but not the entrance from the parking lot. So, I get inside from there.

I entered my destination with a satisfaction. At last the struggle will not go in vain, and the attendance will be worth the pain. I thought that, I vanquished over him, but, he was not gone yet. I could sense him around me.

As I try to focus on the lecture, his voice disrupted my attention every minute. I make an effort to concentrate but, he didn’t want me to. However, I comply with his words and become his muse.

Then suddenly, I start to think about my future and many thoughts arise in my mind.

‘What if I don’t listen to this lecture? Should I focus? Or just relax as the monster says. But then, this knowledge will definitely be useful in future. I should just focus on the lecture’.

It was not easy at all. But, the incessant dilemma ended with the lecture.

Meanwhile, somebody reminds me of a test. I am shocked to hear about it. I remember the previous day when I was going to open my book and he reminded me about my favourite TV series. I ended up watching it for a long time. OH! I wish I would have studied.

Now, I have two options.

One, copy from the phone or friends. Second, just screw up the exam.

“But, even copying needs talent and preparation. Why do you want to struggle? Just go with the flow”, he uttered.

“Shut up! Didn’t I ask you to leave me alone?” I retort

“But, wasn’t that season so funny? You even chattered about it with your friends. Wouldn’t you like to watch that again?” he added

“Yes, actually. That part where he….Hell, what I am even thinking. Get away from here.”

The only thing that I can do now is try my best and leave the rest to the fates. I walk out disheartened and swore to study.

Later, the day just went on with more boring lectures and so did the battle. He interrupted me in every work and I tried to shoo him away. He tempted me to bunk the classes. However, the thought of attendance held me back. The last bell rung and I thought he would stop following me. Unfortunately, he didn’t.

While driving back home, I started thinking of ways to get rid of this stalker.

“There’s only one way out. You need to focus. If you want to be a winner, work hard. That’s the only way. Think of the day when you will win over such small things and start working hard for significant things. It will bring success and happiness. Don’t get drifted away. It’s in your hands. Only in your hands”, the wiser part of me said.

I decided that whatever happens, I am going to defeat him and end this battle.

As soon as I reach home, that quote reverberates in my mind.

“It’s in your hands. Don’t let your resolve flicker”

He attempted to make me watch TV, waste time on WhatsApp, play video games. I strengthen my will power and stick to my new resolve. I don’t let myself get captivated by him.

Slowly he evaporates into thin air and I can no longer feel his existence. The deep satisfaction fills my heart with joy.

I remember the old Cherokee tale of the two wolves. I immediately run into my room to pick up the marker and write in bold font on the board.

*There are two wolves inside every person.*

*One is Evil. The other is good.*

*They fight each other, every moment of everyday*

*Eventually one will win, and control the other.*

*But that depends on which one is stronger.*

*Which one will win?*

*The one you feed.*

-Akanksha Bodhankar